

SUMMER 1994 CALENDAR

MUSCARELLE MUSEUM OF ART

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College of William and Mary
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EXHIBITIONS

The Conceptual Canvas: Abstract Expressionist Paintings from the Museum's Jean Outland Chrysler Collection

May 14-July 31

Abstract Expressionism originated and developed in New York City in the 1940s and emerged out of a call for freedom from traditional social and aesthetic values. A new emphasis in art was placed on spontaneous personal expression. Abstract Expressionism was the first movement in the United States to evolve independently from European art and, in turn, the first American art movement to have direct influence on art in Europe. This exhibition features the younger generation of American abstract expressionist painters, active during the 1950s and 1960s, with works by Michael Goldberg, Norman Bluhm, Stan Freborg, Robert Richtenburg, Budd Hopkins, and Lester Johnson, among others. With this second generation of expressionists emerged a new interest in light and space, action and gesture, and the substance of paint. There was also a return to the subject of nature as a vehicle for expressing feelings and emotions on a personal level. This general survey of abstract expressionist paintings is drawn from the Museum's permanent holdings. The collection was established at the College of William and Mary in 1964, with additions made in 1967 and again in 1973 through the generosity of Jean Outland Chrysler, an alumna of the College.

Animalia

May 14-July 31

The Museum takes a look at the various forms and functions of animal imagery from diverse origins and historical periods through the paintings, prints, and sculptures in its permanent collection. From ancient Chinese dragons to a modern Italian interpretation of the horse and rider, this exhibition examines the multifaceted identity of animals in art. Ancient cultures believed animals had the power to guide and enrich human productivity, as well as the ability to wreak havoc on their lives. The wisdom of animal spirits was often called upon in times of need, whether for forgiveness or generosity. These rarely displayed animal forms—whether symbolic, ritualistic, or merely decorative—will provide a glimpse into multicultural ideas and images in the Museum's art collection.

Leadership Arts of West Africa

August 13-October 9

The art of leadership in West Africa represents a visually rich resource for studying community values, traditions, and organizations that structure society. Leadership items include carved wooden stools, masks, and figures as well as accessories of dress such as staffs, jewelry, and hats. In Africa, art forms, which are supportive of the political system, are used in a wide range of specific activities including political ritual or drama, decision making, and law enforcement. At the same time, art symbolizes the importance of cooperation, shared beliefs, and the responsibilities of both rulers and ruled. This exhibition and accompanying catalogue were organized by Kent State University School of Art Gallery. The exhibition is comprised of selections from a number of sources including the William C. Mithoefer Collection of African Art.

